



State of California  
The Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

## NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**PROJECT TITLE** Dunbarton S-212 Training Site

**PROJECT LOCATION** Sec 32-33, T12S, R3E; MDBM; Aromas, CA

**COUNTY** Monterey

**LEAD AGENCY** California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

**CONTACT** CAL FIRE's San Benito-Monterey Unit Headquarters

**ADDRESS** 2221 Garden Road, Monterey, CA 93940

**PHONE** (831) 333-2600

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project is a chainsaw training area. The project will consist of pile burning, felling, limbing and bucking dead, diseased, and dying trees. Depending on fuel loading, material produced during the project will be used by the property owners as firewood or it will be chipped or scattered. There is no anticipated use of equipment outside the road prisms.

The project goal is to reduce existing fuel loads to create and maintain a safer fuel level providing greater defensible space, improving on site vegetation health conditions, aesthetics and protecting the ranch and its resources in the event of wildfire. The project will treat vegetation on 110 acres. Vegetation is represented by oak woodland intermingled with conifers, moderate to patchy thick understory and grassland. Cumulated fuel will be thinned and spaced, priority being given along existing trails used for outdoor and recreation. Dead, dying and diseased trees shall be removed, tree pruning shall be performed as needed. Snags and damaged trees shall be removed if deemed a hazard by a Registered Professional Forester. No healthy trees bigger than 12 inch DBH shall be removed. Crews will cut by hand the targeted material and pile it on site in areas designated by a Registered Professional Forester. Burning of created piles will be performed on permissive burn days as determined by the local air district when weather and fuel conditions allow for safe burning. These types of activities will provide greater defensible space, improve existing vegetation health conditions, create safe private recreational conditions, improve ranch aesthetics and protect the ranch and its resources in the event of wildfire. This is an ongoing project. This fuel treatment will be periodically maintained so it remains effective over time. No mechanical treatment, treatment of grass or any herbaceous perennials is planned. No new roads are to be constructed. No commercial operations are planned.

### EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 §15304 Minor Alterations to Land  
☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):  
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)  
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))  
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

### REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of Class 4, § 15304 - Minor Alterations to Land Categorical Exemption to CEQA. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply that would preclude the use of a notice of exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland or timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation or traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CALFIRE's Monterey Unit Headquarters.

### DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

AUG 28 2018

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Helge Eng, Deputy Director  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

8/27/18

Date